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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
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MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 16 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you of the most recent gross violation by the armed forces of the Republic or Armenia of the ceasefire regime that has been in effect in the region of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict for almost three years.

On 15 April 1997, a delegation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which is the main mediator in the conflict, headed by Mr. Andrzej Kasprzyk, Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of OSCE, and consisting of the Personal Representative's field assistant, Col. M. Hoholacek, and other officials, came under fire by the Armenian side. They were visiting the region on an official mission to monitor the compliance by the parties to the conflict with the ceasefire regime.

The Armenian side opened indiscriminate fire on the international team of mediators in spite of the agreement reached earlier between OSCE and the parties to the conflict allowing the former to conduct this mission.

This impudent provocation testifies once again to the unwillingness of Armenia, which continues to occupy more than 20 per cent of Azerbaijan's

* A/52/50.

territory, to pursue the path of a political settlement of this tragic conflict and definitely puts in further jeopardy the already fragile peace process.

In this connection I have the honour to forward to you herewith the text of a press release issued on 16 April 1997 by the Press Service of the Ministry of Defence of the Azerbaijan Republic regarding the above-mentioned incident (see annex) and should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under items 40, 81 and 82 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar G. KOULIEV
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Press release issued on 16 April 1997 by the Press Service of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan

On 14 April 1997, Mr. Andrzej Kasprzyk, Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, visited the region in order to monitor the situation on the front line.

On 15 April, Mr. Kasprzyk, accompanied by his field assistant, Col. M. Hoholacek, and other officials, came under fire between 3.05 and 3.15 p.m. in the Horadiz district while monitoring the compliance by the parties with the ceasefire in the vicinity of the troops on the line of confrontation.

Despite the agreement reached earlier on the conduct of this monitoring mission and ignoring both the OSCE insignia on the mission's vehicle and the OSCE flag, the Armenian side opened indiscriminate fire on the monitors, thus preventing them from accomplishing their task.

Mr. Kasprzyk admitted that, as a result of this action of the Armenian side, the ceasefire regime had been violated and that he himself and his team had become the targets. He stated that one could indeed speak about poor discipline in the Armenian army and the insubordination of certain armed units to the orders of the high command.

The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of OSCE called this outrageous act an extraordinary incident and indicated his intention to report it to the OSCE authorities.